

the 21st century would provide the framework for such a sound U.S. policy. It would assure the entire region-allies and otherwise-of the continuation of a leadership that is consistent, coherent, and coordinated.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to support H.R. 4899, and I submit the full text of H.R. 4899 to be printed at this point in the RECORD.

H.R. 4899

A BILL To establish a commission to promote a consistent and coordinated foreign policy of the United States to ensure economic and military security in the Pacific region of Asia through the promotion of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, free trade, and open markets, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Asian Pacific Charter Commission Act of 2000".

#### SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to promote a consistent and coordinated foreign policy of the United States to ensure economic and military security in the Pacific region of Asia;

(2) to support democratization, the rule of law, and human rights in the Pacific region of Asia;

(3) to advance free trade and open markets on a reciprocal basis in the Pacific region of Asia;

(4) to combat terrorism and the spread of illicit narcotics in the Pacific region of Asia; and

(5) to advocate an active role for the United States Government in diplomacy, security, and the furtherance of good governance and the rule of law in the Pacific region of Asia.

#### SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

There is established a commission to be known as the Asian Pacific Charter Commission (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

#### SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

(a) DUTIES.—The Commission shall establish and carry out, either directly or through nongovernmental and international organizations, programs, projects, and activities to achieve the purposes described in section 2 of this Act, including research and educational or legislative exchanges between the United States and countries in the Pacific region of Asia.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—The Commission may establish such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to advise the Commission on policy matters relating to the Pacific region of Asia and to otherwise carry out this Act.

#### SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.

(a) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 7 members all of whom—

(1) shall be citizens of the United States who are not officers or employees of any government, except to the extent they are considered such officers or employees by virtue of their membership on the Commission; and

(2) shall have interest and expertise in issues relating to the Pacific region of Asia.

(b) APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The individuals referred to in subsection (a) shall be appointed—

(A) by the President, after consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 4 of the individuals appointed under paragraph (1) may be affiliated with the same political party.

(c) TERM.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.

(d) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(e) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall designate a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commission from among the members of the Commission.

(f) COMPENSATION.—

(1) RATES OF PAY.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Commission may receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(h) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(i) AFFIRMATIVE DETERMINATIONS.—An affirmative vote by a majority of the members of the Commission shall be required for any affirmative determination by the Commission under section 4.

#### SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of services or property, both real and personal, for the purpose of assisting or facilitating the work of the Commission. Gifts, bequests, or devises of money and proceeds from sales of other property received as gifts, bequests, or devises shall be deposited in the Treasury and shall be available for disbursement upon order of the Commission.

(b) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

#### SEC. 7. STAFF AND SUPPORT SERVICES OF COMMISSION.

(a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have an executive director appointed by Commission after consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate. The executive director shall serve the Commission under such terms and conditions as the Commission determines to be appropriate.

(b) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint and fix the pay of such additional personnel, not to exceed 10 individuals, as it considers appropriate.

(c) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request of the chairperson of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties under this Act.

(d) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

#### SEC. 8. REPORTS OF COMMISSION.

The Commission shall prepare and submit to Congress an annual report on the programs, projects, and activities on the Commission for the prior year.

#### SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropria-

tions under subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE AND WOMEN WARTIME VOLUNTEERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts of the Women's Overseas Service League (WOSL) and in honoring the many women who have selflessly volunteered to assist our armed forces during time of war. In World War I, more than 90,000 civilian women served as volunteers and nearly 350 women gave their lives in this effort. Women served in both World Wars, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf, and in many other conflicts. As these women returned to the United States, however, they came home without the benefits that male soldiers received. Because these women were not considered "veterans," their contribution to the Armed Forces was, until recently, practically unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, women played many important roles in the WOSL. Women ran recreation centers, created libraries for the military, taught in hospitals and schools, and worked as journalists. By participating in these humanitarian activities, these women risked their lives and their health. In recognition of the great services these women provided our Armed Services, a memorial freeway in California was named in their honor on May 29, 2000.

The Women's Overseas Service League honors and recognizes the women who have graciously volunteered for their country. Currently, the WOSL supports the Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C. and Freedoms Foundation Youth Leadership Seminars at Valley Forge. WOSL offers scholarships for young women pursuing military careers and has vigorously supported events such as the creation of the Civilian Women Volunteers All Wars Memorial Highway. The WOSL's dedication to women veterans and volunteers has made a large impact in keeping the memory of these individuals alive and ensuring strong support of women in the military for the future.

Mr. Speaker, groups such as the Women's Overseas Service League have started to spread awareness of women in the military. The Civilian Women Volunteers All Wars Memorial Freeway is the beginning in honoring women who have served our country. Nevertheless, it is only a beginning. The women who gave their time, their health and their lives deserve our recognition and our gratitude for their outstanding contribution to our Armed Forces and to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the women volunteers who have served so valiantly.